CHAIKA: THE COFFIN PRINCESS

I

ORIGINAL STORY
ICHIROU SAKAKI

ART
SHINTA SAKAYAMA

CHARACTER DESIGN
NAMANIKU ATK (NITROPLUS)

GOOD MORNING, DEAR BROTHER.

episode 1:

The Girl Toting a Coffin

.....

AKARI...?

...BUT I JUST... CAN'T HOLD BACK ANY LONGER.

WHEN I THINK OF YOU, DARLING BROTHER, I.....

...I NEVER INTENDED TO BE SO BOLD...

I...!

MY SISTER WAKES ME UP LIKE THIS EVERY MORNING.

MAYBE THE WORLD WOULD BE BETTER OFF IF I JUST DIED ALREADY.

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...IS IT NOW?

THIS IS MY FAULT?

THIS IS YOUR FAULT, BROTH-ER.

AKARI, CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING?

ガバ

GABA (SHOVE)

U

YOU KNOW EXACTLY HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU.

UH, WELL ...

SU (SSK)

SEE...

WHAT IS IT? I WILL GLADLY ANSWER ANY QUESTION MY BELOVED BROTHER ASKS.

HAAH...

FRANKLY, I DIDN'T THINK I'D DRIVEN YOU TO SUCH AN EXTREME, BUT...

WHAT IS THAT?

YOU KNOW VERY WELL THAT HAS BEEN MY FAVORITE WEAPON FOR THE LAST TEN-ODD YEARS.

ALREADY LOSING YOUR MEMORY AT YOUR AGE?

I KNOW THAT!

SARARI (SMOOTH)

BECAUSE I SWUNG IT THERE, OBVI-OUSLY.

...IN MY PILLOW!

...IT'S STUCK...

...IS WHY...

WHAT I WANT TO KNOW ...

MERI!! (RRRIP)

...ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL ME?

ZUBO (SHOONK)

ズボッ

SEEMS LIKE THAT THING WOULD ENSURE I NEVER WOKE UP!

I DID IT OUT OF CONCERN BECAUSE YOU FAILED TO WAKE UP AFTER SO MANY HOURS.

YOU KNOW I WOULD NEVER HARBOR ANY MURDEROUS SENTIMENTS TOWARD MY DARLING BROTHER.

HAAH!

BY THE WAY, BROTHER ...

SLEEP.

OR MAYBE JUST ROLL AROUND.

...WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR TODAY?

RIGHT.

YAWN.

IF I GET HUNGRY, I'LL EAT SOME-THING.

MM-HM, AND?

GORON (ROLL)

THAT'S ALL.

I SEE. THAT'S REASON-ABLE. AND?

THEN I'D HOPE YOU'D BLEED OUT AND NEVER WAKE UP.

IF YOU WERE TO ACTUALLY GET OUT AND WORK TODAY, I THINK MY NOSE WOULD BLEED FOR JOY.

...MY DEAR BROTH-ER.

...IF I WORK, I LOSE.

BOSO (MUTTER)

ボソ

GYA (SKSH)

DO (WHAM)

GYURU (WHIRL)

WHAT ...

...THE HELL ARE YOU DOING!?

TO (TMP)

GAGAGA (RATTLE)

...IT'S TOO STRANGE.

SHUUU— (FSHHH)

WHA...!?

WHY DON'T YOU WANT TO WORK, DARLING BROTHER?

URK.

...BECAUSE...

SHE'S NOT MESSING AROUND!

...IF I WORK... I LOSE...

...THEN I HAVE AN IDEA!

IT CAN'T BE A GOOD ONE!

HOW MUCH ROLLING AROUND AM I DOING HERE!?

BROTHER, IF YOU INTEND NOT ONLY TO REFUSE TO WORK, BUT TO SPEND ALL YOUR TIME DOING NOTHING BUT ROLLING *AROUND AND AROUND* THE HOUSE...

YOU ALREADY SAID THAT!

ZUN (STOMP)

ZUN

ZUN

ZUN

ZUN

I'M GOING TO STUFF YOU AND SELL YOU!

I KNEW IT WOULD BE A BAD IDEA!

L-

LOOK, LET'S JUST CALM DOWN AND HAVE SOME BREAK-FAST!

S-SERI-OUSLY... DO YOU HEAR YOUR-SELF!?

OKAY!?

NO ONE MAY INSULT MY BROTHER— NOT EVEN HE HIM-SELF!

HYLIN

HYLIN

HYLIN (SWOOSH)

NOT AT ALL!

NOTHING CON-CERNING MY DEAR BROTHER COULD BE BAD!

O-OH, DID YOU?

I BELIEVE I TOLD YOU THAT YESTERDAY'S DINNER WOULD BE YOUR LAST SUPPER?

DAN (WHAM)

YOU DON'T MEAN TO TELL ME THAT YOU, MY WISE BROTHER, HAVE FORGOT-TEN?

DO YOU?

DEAR BROTH-ER?

PROVINCIAL TOWN, DELSORENTO

OKAY... OKAY, I GET IT!

FINE! I'LL FIND US SOME BREAK-FAST!

YAWWWN.

MAN, THE TOWN'S TOTALLY CHANGED WITHOUT MY REALIZING IT...

MM. MM-HM.

GUESS WHILE I WAS LYING AROUND, CIVILIZATION MOVED ON WITHOUT ME.

GET OFF MY BACK!

OH, TORU!

IT'S NOT EVERY DAY I SEE YOU OUT OF THE HOUSE.

SO AKARI FINALLY CHASED YOU OUTDOORS, DID SHE?

SHE DID NOT!

AS A MATTER OF FACT, I'M GOING TO WORK RIGHT NOW!

BUT ONLY BECAUSE SHE WOULD'VE KICKED YOU OUT OF THE HOUSE OTHERWISE, AM I RIGHT?

MORE LIKE SHE WAS ABOUT TO KILL ME!

BUT WHAT A GOOD OPPORTUNITY.

YOU REALLY DO NEED TO GET A JOB.

GARI (SCRITCH)

GAR

...I WILL... IF I FEEL LIKE IT.

PAIN IN THE ASS.

I DON'T SUPPOSE SOMEBODY DROPPED A BUNCH OF MONEY ON THE GROUND.

THAT'D BE THE FASTEST WAY TO TAKE CARE OF THIS.

BUTSU

ZAKU

ZAKU (SLASH)

I TOLD HER IF I WORKED, I'D LOSE. RRGH, THIS IS SUCH A PAIN.

DAMMIT, THIS IS A HUGE PAIN IN THE ASS. THIS IS WORK TOO, YOU KNOW. HARD LABOR, IN FACT. I CAN'T DO THIS.

BUTSU MUTTER

AND WHAT'S AKARI'S PROBLEM ANYWAY ...?

ZA CLSH

SHE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HAVE HER PICK OF ANY RANDOM GUY AND GET HIM TO FEED HER.

WHAT COULD SHE POSSIBLY EXPECT FROM ME NOW...

HAAH...

-3

GASA (RUSTLE)

A WILD ANIMAL?

SU SHKK

NO, IT'S TOO BIG. AND WHAT IS THAT SOUND...? IT CAN'T BE...!

GASA

GASA

GAKO

GAKON CHUNKO

A FAYLA ...!?

GASA (RUSTLE)

18

A...
GIRL!?

AH!

!!

HEY,
YOU!

DON'T
RUN
AROUND
IN THE
WOODS
LIKE—

GAKON
ガコン

GAKON
ガコン

GAKON
CLUNK
ガコン

HUNH!?

PECHI (WHAP)

UNH!?

GA (WHACK)

MEEP!

GAN (CLANG)

GO (KONK)

FURA FURA

FURA FURA

FURA (WOBBLE) FURA

MRF!

URK!

IDON (WHAM)

WHAT AN IDIOT...!

...ARE YOU OKAY?

WEL-COME BACK.

ZUZAAA (SKSHH)

MEEGYAAH!

DON'T TOUCH!

BA PUNCH

D—

GET CLOSE!

NO!

VERY BAD!

HM?

A-A-A...

A...

SHAKO (SHWIP)

シャコ

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO DEFENSIVE. I'M NOT GONNA EAT YOU.

ASSAULT ...!?

NO, I'M NOT GONNA AS-SAULT YOU!

AS-SAULT ...!?

GU-CCLENCHU

NO!

BAD!

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.

BUN

OR DO YOU WANT ME TO?

BUN (SHAKE)

"UNEM-PLOYED" ...?

WHAT YOU DO OUT HERE?

HUH? ME?

I'M UNEMPLOYED AND BROKE, SO I CAME OUT HERE TO FORAGE FOR SOME WILD VEGETABLES OR SOME-THING.

POOR MAN?

IRA CIRIO

THE COF-FIN!

...WHAT?

HEY, FORGET ABOUT ME. WHAT'S YOUR STORY!?

THAT'S... A COFFIN, RIGHT? I MEAN, WHAT ELSE COULD IT BE? ...WHAT'S IN IT?

...WELL, OKAY, THEN.

I DON'T KNOW! YOU SEE NOTHING TOO!

SOWA

SOWA (FIDGET)

...

(I THOUGHT IF I WENT THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS, I WOULDN'T RUN INTO ANYONE. IT SEEMED LIKE A GOOD IDEA AT THE TIME.)

BOSO (MUTTER)

(CRIMI—)

...ARE YOU...

...A CRIMINAL OR SOMETHING?

DOOON (BOOM)

(BLASPHEMY!)

(INSULTS!)

(INSOLENCE!)

THAT LANGUAGE... YOU'RE SPEAKING LAAKE. I WONDERED ABOUT THE BROKEN SENTENCES. SO YOU'RE FROM UP NORTH. YOU TRYING TO GET TO DELSORENTO?

IF... IF SO!

NOT YOUR CONCERN!

THAT'S TRUE. IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS WHETHER YOU'RE A CRIMINAL OR SOMETHING ELSE.

(FWIP)

...BUT IF YOU WANNA GET TO DELSORENTO, I'LL TAKE YOU THERE.

IN EX-CHANGE FOR BREAK-FAST FOR TWO!

YOU GET ME FOOD, AND I'LL TAKE YOU TO TOWN!

BAAAN (BAAAAM)

LIKE I TOLD YOU, I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY.

I HAVE A REALLY SCARY LITTLE SISTER AT HOME...IF I GO BACK WITHOUT FOOD...I'M GONNA BE IN SOME SERIOUS TROUBLE...

PFFT!

SU (SFF)

SO... IS IT A DEAL!? WHAT DO YOU SAY?

URK ...!

AH-HA-HA-HA-HA!

Y- you are!

You are poor man!

MM!

PLEASE.

SHOW THE WAY.

I ONLY OFFERED ON A WHIM.

OKAY.

COME TO THINK OF IT, I DON'T KNOW HER NAME...

BUT I CAN'T LEAVE HER OUT HERE ALONE.

OH WELL... IT'S A SHORT WAY TO TOWN ANYWAY.

...ん

ZOKUN (CHILLS)

?

WHAT'S WRONG?

MÖRSEN

JI-JI (ZZZAP)

AMEN

DAFÜR

ZA

ZA

ZA (SWIMS)

ZA

ZA

ZA

DON
(WHOOM)

ズ‥ズン
ZUZUN
(CRUSH)

BURURU (WHINNY)

TALK ABOUT BAD LUCK!

DAM-MIT!

KOLL

KOLL

GOOOOOOOO (WHOOOOOSH)

A FAYLA ...!

AND IT'S A UNICORN OF ALL THINGS...

WHAT'S IT DOING HERE...?

LOSE THE COFFIN! WE'RE MAKING A RUN FOR IT!

HEY, YOU.

GUI (YANK)

CAN'T!

DENY!

NO!

WHY!? YOU COULD DIE! YOU CAN'T LUG AROUND THAT OVER-WEIGHT PIECE OF JUNK IF YOU WANT TO ESCAPE!

NO.

PUI (POUT)

MY REASON TO LIVE!

THIS COF-FIN.

~~~!

GIRI (GRIT)

ARGH! DAMM'IT!!

PIKU! (TWITCH)

FINE! WHAT-EVER YOU DO, DON'T LET GO OF IT!

DA (DASH)

GUN (HEFT)
~~~

ギュルル

GYURU GWARRR

ドゴロン

DO GWAAN

IT'S HERE!!

TO
(SHMP)
ZA
CZSHO

SUU (SNIFF)

BURURU (WHINNY)

...SHE GOT AWAY.

BA (FLAP)

HMM...

WHAT TO DO NOW...? SHOULD I BE A GOOD BOY AND WAIT FOR LORD GILLET...?

BURAN (DROOP)

— NO, THIS IS TOO GOOD AN OPPOR-TUNITY TO PASS UP...

DO (WHLID)

THAT MAN WITH HER... I DON'T KNOW WHO HE IS, BUT...

...HE'LL HAVE TO BE REMOVED .....

HAFF!

GH...

HFF!

HFF!

STUPID UNCONSCIOUS CLICHE...

Can't eat no more...

Mm... Nn.

ペチ

PECHI

COME ON... WAKE UP.

PECHI (SMACK)

ペチ

AH!

COF-FIN ...!

GABA (JOLT)

THAT'S THE FIRST THING YOU HAVE TO SAY...? DON'T WORRY, I SAVED IT.

YOU...

THAT...

BLOOD ...

GNH!

OH... NO, IT'S NOT...

...BECAUSE YOU PROTECT ME?

SOME-THING...

SOME-THING...

GOSO

GOSO (RUMMAGE)

UH, HEY ...!

GUGU (PRESS)

UR-GENT CARE!

WELL...

IT MIGHT NOT BE SO BAD TO JUST HANG OUT HERE AND LET IT END.

I NEVER DID...FIGURE OUT WHAT I WANTED TO DO WITH MY LIFE...

WITH THE WORLD LIKE IT IS, I—

ギュッ

GYUU - CLENCH

THERE WAS ONCE SOMETHING I WANTED TO DO, YEARS AGO.

START NOW.

...FIND.

SW SHFT

THEN ...

ONE MORE TIME!

GUNI (SQUISH)

FIND AGAIN!

...WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING?

NOT TOO LATE.

IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT.

FIND WHAT AGAIN? WHAT I WANT TO DO?

ME TOO. USELESS.

ズズ...
ZUZU (SKSH)

SAME AS YOU.

YOU CAN FIND.

JAKO (KA-CHUNK)

GASHA (CLANK)

ME TOO.

GASHAN
(KA-CLANK)

DON'T TELL ME... YOU THINK THAT...

...WILL WIPE OUT THAT UNI-CORN?

...THIS...

...MUCH POSSIBLE!

SHE'S...A WIZARD?

BUT...

ONLY THIS! NO OTHER TALENT.

I THINK...

...I CAN.

OH...

IT'S THAT POWERFUL, HUH...?

ZA (ISH)

I NOT CAN MOVE WHILE ACTIVATE SPELL.

SO...

...OKAY, I'M IN!

SO WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?

I GET IT.

BURURURURU (WHINNY)

ヒヒヒヒヒヒ

SHA (CHAK)

YOU WANT ME TO BUY YOU SOME TIME.

BURURU (WHINNY)

...BUT I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME...

GUGUGU (CLENCH)

HAAH!

DO (CHARGE)

I am steel.

BA (BAM)

When I meet my foe, I will not hesitate for a moment.

Steel wavers not.

Steel falters not.

I AM A WEAPON...
...TO DESTROY MY ENEMY—

DON
CBOOM!

THAT BOY... HE CAN'T BE...

HE BLEW AWAY MY UNICORN ...!?

IRON-BLOOD TRANSFORMATION

...BUT I GUESS AFTER THOUSANDS OF TIMES, IT'S INGRAINED INTO MY CONSCIOUSNESS. IT'S NOT ONE OF THOSE THINGS THAT GOES AWAY.

GU

GU (FLEX)

IT'S BEEN A FEW YEARS SINCE I LAST DID THIS...

HORN...

AUS-
FÜHR-
EN!

SCHNELL-
EN...

GO.
GWHOOSH

...OF COURSE IT'S NOT GONNA BE THAT EASY!

TCH!

ELM

KORKI

I'M NOT GONNA LAST LONG...

IF YOU COULD PICK UP THE PACE, THAT'D BE GREAT.

GYAN (CLANG)

HNGH ...!

VON (CLASH)

BO (SWASH)

DA (DASH)

...GUESS I'LL RISK IT.

IF I TAKE A DIRECT HIT, IT'S A ONE-WAY TICKET TO THE AFTER-LIFE...!

GYURURURURU (WHRRRRR)

DO (WHAM)

BO (DOSHAH)

GA! (THWAK)

ITS NECK!

700

GRRR

BA (TURN)

BURLRLR. (WHINNY)

GUGU (STRAIN)

NO...!

GO (WHOOSH)

INTE
...

...
WÄM
...

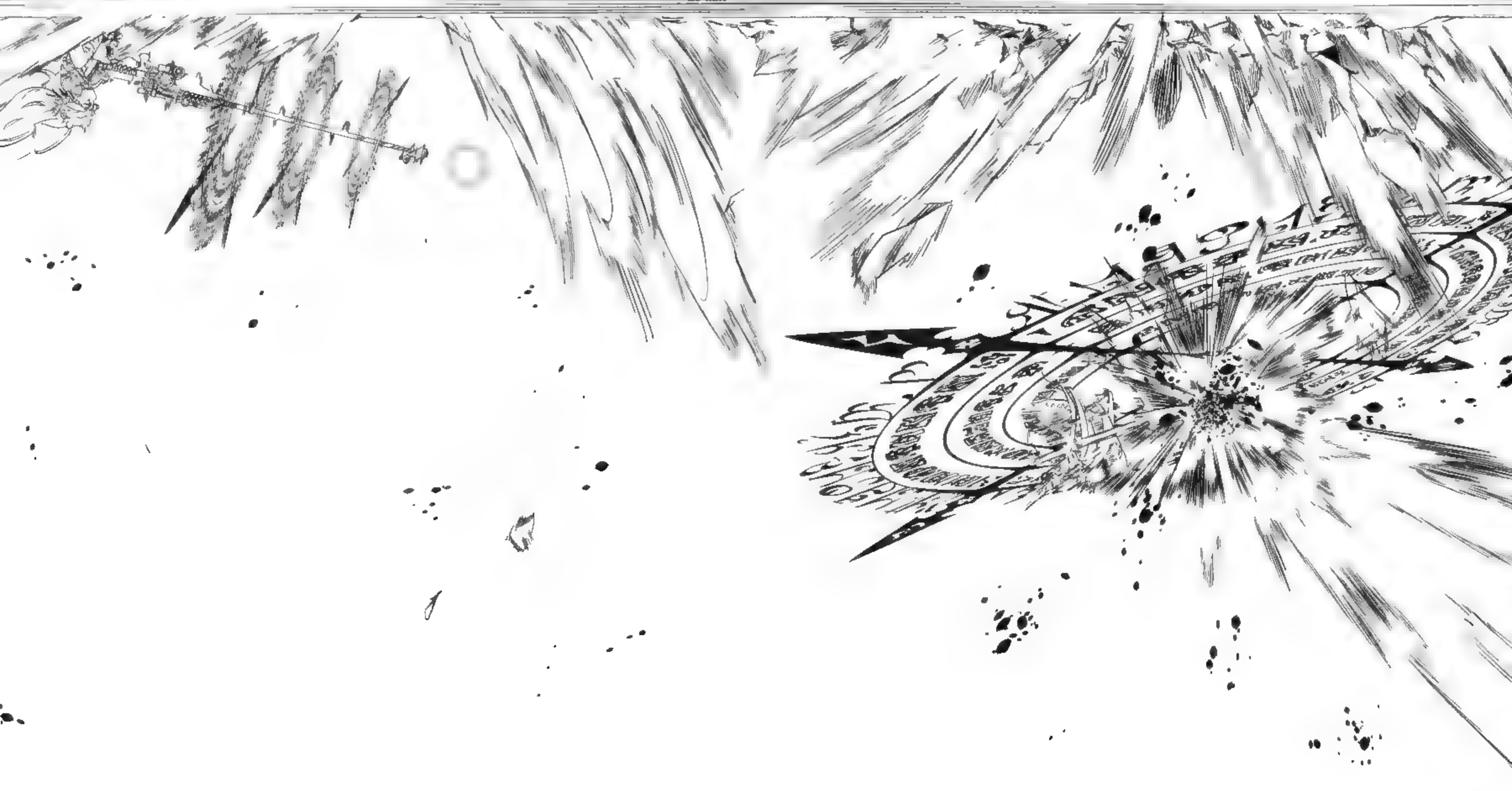
...
MILITA
RU.

BI
(WWIP)

JAKA
CKA-CHAK

COME FORTH!

THE RIPPER!



BIKIN
(SNAP)
PISHI
(CRAK)

BAJI
(BLAM)

ウウウウウウ
OOO
SHHHHHHHH
(SHWOOOO)

ZAAAAAA
(FSHHHH)
アアアアア…

SITUATION COMPLETE.

PUSHHH
(PSHHT)

WOW...

SHE'S THAT POWERFUL.

TE TE TE (TEP)

ZZZ...

YOU!

Strong!

SHU (FWOO)

SHOCK!

...I USED TO BE A SABOTEUR.

BUT...

...WITHOUT A WAR TO FIGHT, I'M JUST A USELESS LUMP.

SO I—

NOT USE-LESS!

NO!

USEFUL!

YOU SAVE MY LIFE!

THANK YOU.

...WHAT IS THIS?

GARI

GARI (SCRITCH)

...SURE.

THIS... STRANGE SENSE OF FULFILL-MENT.

I ASK YOU AGAIN.

SHOW THE WAY.

SU (SFF)

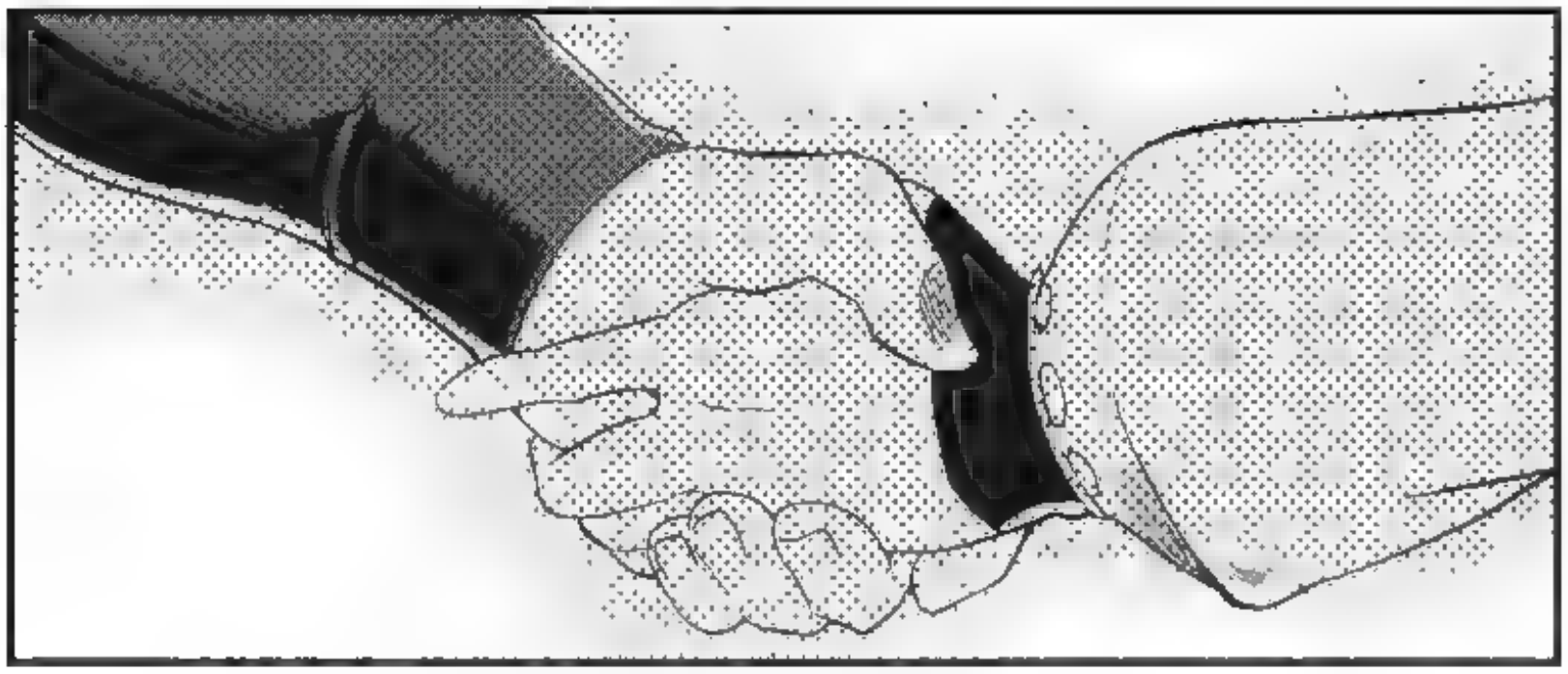
TORU.

I'M TORU ACURA. AND YOU ARE?

I USED TO SAVOR THIS FEELING.

CHAIKA TRABANT.

CHAIKA.



AND THE WIZARD CHAIKA TRABANT.

THE SAB-OTEUR TORU ACURA.

THIS IS HOW THEIR TALE BEGINS.

MEOW—

ANYWAY, WE'D BETTER WASH OFF ALL THIS BLOOD IN THE RIVER.

episode 1: END

CHAIKA: THE COFFIN PRINCESS

GA (CRUNCH)

PAKU (SMACK)

MUSHA (MUNCH)

GUWA (CHOMP)

GUOSHI (YANK)

GABURYU (GOBBLE)

GA

GA

episode 2:

Forgotten Memories

AGU (SNARF)

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME? I'M STARVING!

...UNBELIEV-ABLE STOMACH.

ANYWAY, ARE YOU SURE YOU GOT MONEY FOR THIS?

HMPH! I HAVE MONEY!

OH GOOD. THEN ONE MORE ORDER OF THE SAME!

YOU STILL EAT!?

.....

NOW, I THINK... ...YOU ARE SAFE?

HUH?

WOUND.

OH...IT'S NOTHING.

BESIDES, THE BLEED-ING STOPPED ...

IT'S THE FATIGUE THAT'S REALLY GETTING ME...I FEEL LIKE I'M TOTALLY EMPTY.

I DID LOSE A LOT OF BLOOD...

AND I DID AN IRON-BLOOD TRANS-FORMA-TION FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TWO YEARS.

AGU! CHOMP

あぐ…

IF I DON'T STUFF MYSELF FULL OF FOOD, I COULD PASS OUT AT ANY SECOND...

MM...

BUT...

...I WORRY.

KARA (CLATTER)

カラ…

...YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE.

I...

...APOL-OGIZE AGAIN.

I HELPED YOU BECAUSE I WANTED TO.

GA (CHOMP)

GA

BUT I WOULDN'T MIND A THANK YOU!

...TORU.

GA

GA

BFFT!

...DOG!

JUST LIKE DOG!

...WHAT?

GOKU-(GLUG)

GOKU

WHAT-EVER. IT'S FINE.

GEEZ...

NOW I WANT AN APOLOGY!

I SEE YOU MUNCH-MUNCH-MUNCH...

HOW DID THAT CONVER-SATION LEAD YOU TO THAT CONCLU-SION!?

GUIIII (WOOSH)

UNH...

I... I AM SORRY.

KH...

...BUT WE'RE NOT JUST MINDLESS ANIMALS—

あんぐ

ANGU (CHOMP)

I MEAN, YEAH, SABOTEURS ARE KNOWN AS THE "DOGS OF THE BATTLE-FIELD"...

ガラッ

GII (CREAK)

...ER, SORRY.

TORU?

I JUST GOT THIS FEELING LIKE I'M FORGETTING SOMETHING.

KA

KA (TAKK)

KA

KA

SOMETHING REALLY STUPID... BUT REALLY IMPORTANT...

KA

I WORRIED ABOUT YOU WHEN YOU DIDN'T COME BACK.

JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

HMM... MY DEAR BROTH-ER?

I...I'M SORRY...! I TOTALLY FORGOT ...!!

HM?

SUN (SNIFF)

I SMELL BLOOD.

!

UH... AKARI?

I SEE.....

?

HUH?

YOU HAVE ME, DEAREST BROTHER, SO WHY WOULD YOU...

WRONG?

WAIT, WAIT, WAIT! I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, BUT IT'S WRONG!

THEN TELL ME WHY I SMELL BLOOD. THE ONLY POSSIBLE EXPLANA-TION...

ZAWA (MURMUR)

...IS THAT YOU ASSAULTED THIS INNOCENT GIRL AND MADE HER BLEED WHEN YOU *POPPED HER CHERRY.*

BFFT!

HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND!?

HN? NO, I SAID SHE *LOST HER VIRGINITY...*

AND I SAID YOU'VE LOST YOUR MIND, YOU LUNATIC!

CHERRY?

...YOU FILL ME WITH DREAD...

THAT'S DREAD-FULLY CLEVER!

...OH!

YOU WERE MAKING A PLAY ON WORDS! I GET IT. I'M IMPRESSED, DEAR BROTHER.

PON (PAT)

I NEED NO EXPLANA-TION...THE BLOOD IS—

GA (GRAB)

I'LL EXPLAIN EVERY-THING!

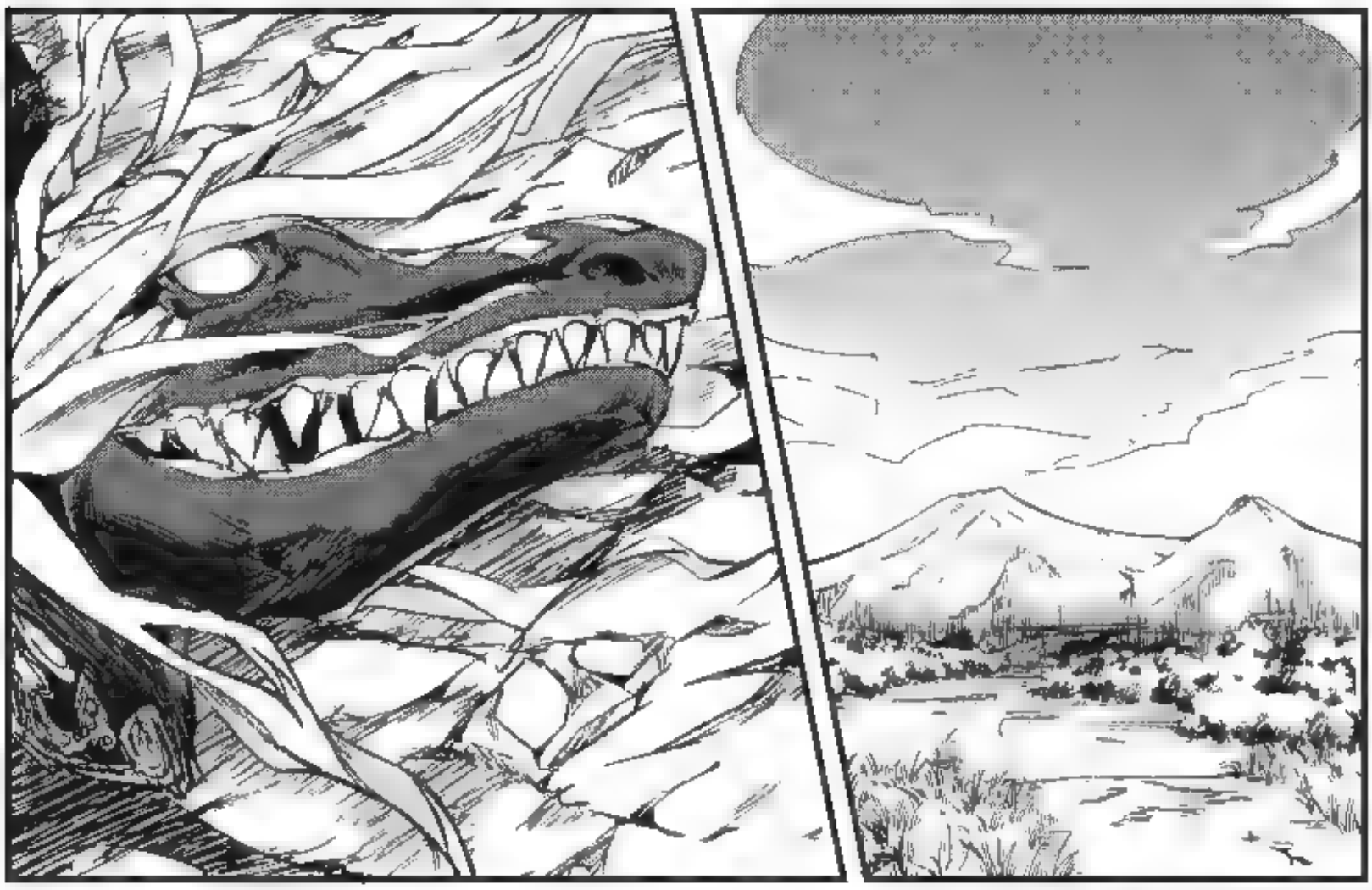
ANYWAY, JUST TAKE A SEAT, AKARI.

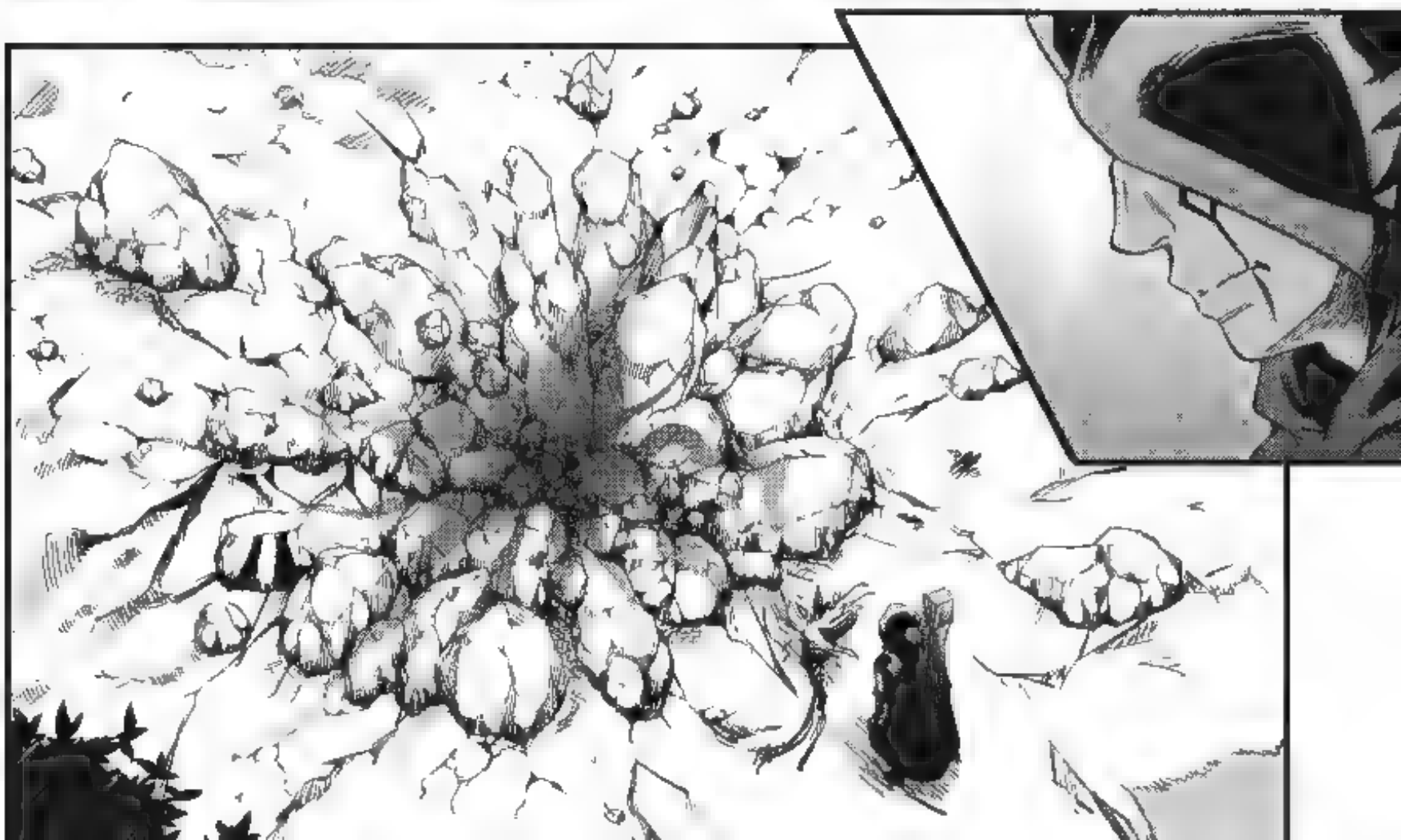
...A FAYLA ...?

DID IT NOT OCCUR TO YOU THAT SOMEONE MIGHT BE INJURED!!?

...WE WERE ATTACKED BY A FAYLA IN THE WOODS.

GUI CYANKO





URRAAH
AAH

GUJU (HUG)

OH, THE PAIN...

THE SUFFERING YOU MUST HAVE ENDURED ...

OHH... YOU POOR THING ...

YOU POOR THING ...!

—BUT I DON'T UNDER-STAND.

DOSHA (THUD)

AND... I CAN ALSO SURMISE THAT HE IS AN EXPE-RIENCED FIGHTER.

IT WAS A MIS-TAKE TO ACT ON MY OWN...

THE BOY WHO WAS WITH THE TARGET... NONE OF THE INFORMATION MASTER GILLET GAVE ME SAID ANYTHING ABOUT HIM...

IT DOES SEEM SAFE TO ASSUME HE IS HER ACCOM-PLICE...

IN ANY CASE...

...I CAN BE FAIRLY CERTAIN THEY ENTERED THAT TOWN...

—I SEE.

THE GIRL WAS LOST IN THE WOODS, WHICH IS WHERE YOU RAN INTO HER, AND THEN YOU WERE SUDDENLY ATTACKED BY A FAYLA.

YES. AND THIS GIRL, CHAIKA, ACTUALLY SAVED MY LIFE.

I ASKED HER TO BUY US A MEAL IN EXCHANGE FOR GUIDING HER TO TOWN.

MM.

I FIND THAT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE!

KARI (CRUNCH)

REALLY? THAT'S WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY? AFTER EATING FOUR ORDERS OF TODAY'S SPECIAL AND THEN TOPPING IT OFF WITH DESSERT?

AND BELIEVE IT OR NOT, SHE'S A WIZARD.

THERE'S A GUNDO INSIDE THAT COFFIN.

Meep?

I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW, I HAD TO USE AN IRON-BLOOD TRANS-FORMA-TION TO FIND YOU.

KA (GLARE)

AND IT TOOK ME NO TIME AT ALL!

SAVE YOUR SECRET MOVES FOR SOMETHING IMPOR-TANT!

T

BUT...

WELL ...

...YOU DID HELP MY DEAR BROTHER, AND FOR THAT, I AM GRATEFUL.

THANK YOU.

AKARI ...

GYU (GRASP)

BUT DON'T GET ANY FUNNY IDEAS. BEING THE OBJECT OF HIS SEXUAL DESIRES IS MY ROLE...!

GIRI

GIRI

GIRI (SQUEEZE)

ACK!

DON'T MAKE EVERY-THING A COMPE-TITION!

I DO.

...TAKE CARE.

NO, I SHOULD BE THANK-ING YOU.

I THANK.

YOU HELP ME.

HUH? OH... OKAY.

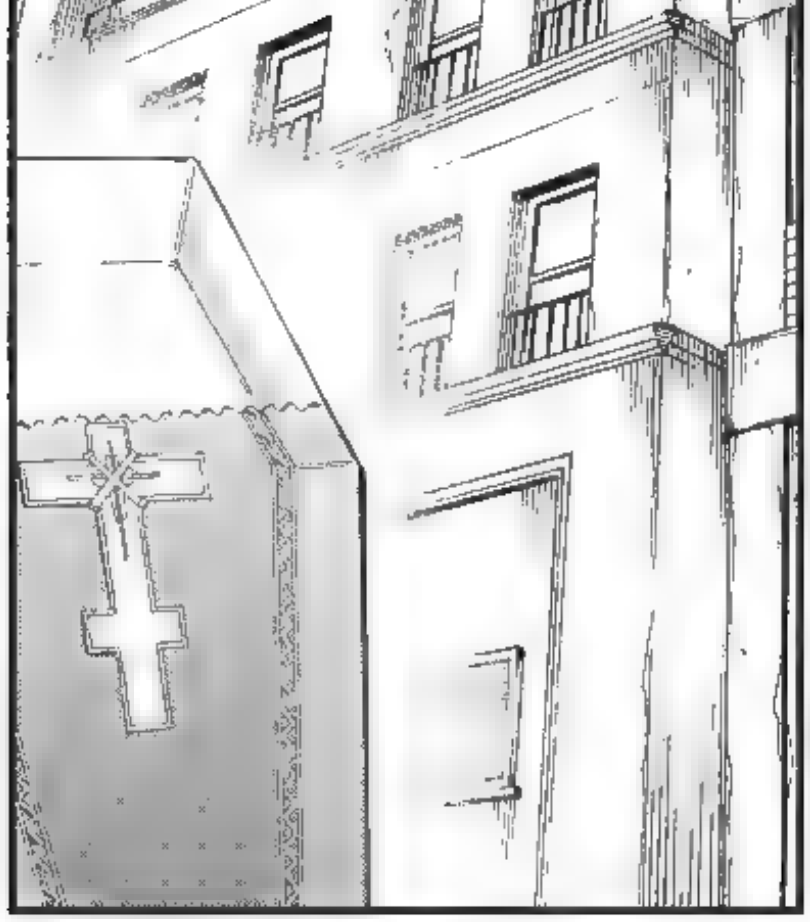
GOOD-BYE.

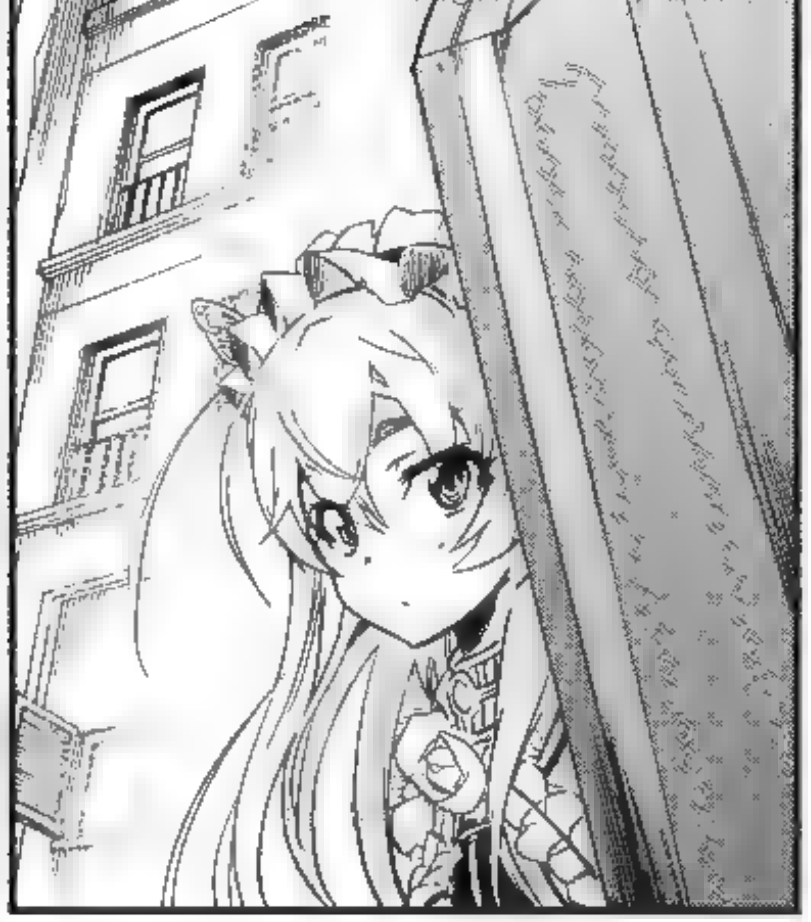
TORU, I GO THIS WAY.

...JUST LIKE THAT, SHE'S GONE.

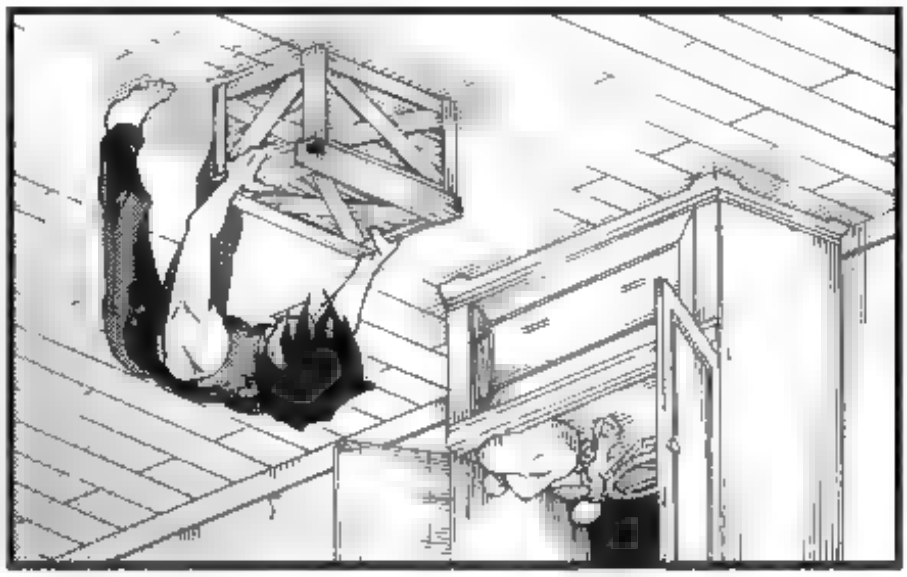
WELL, OF COURSE... WHAT DID I EXPECT ...?

LET'S GO, BROTHER.

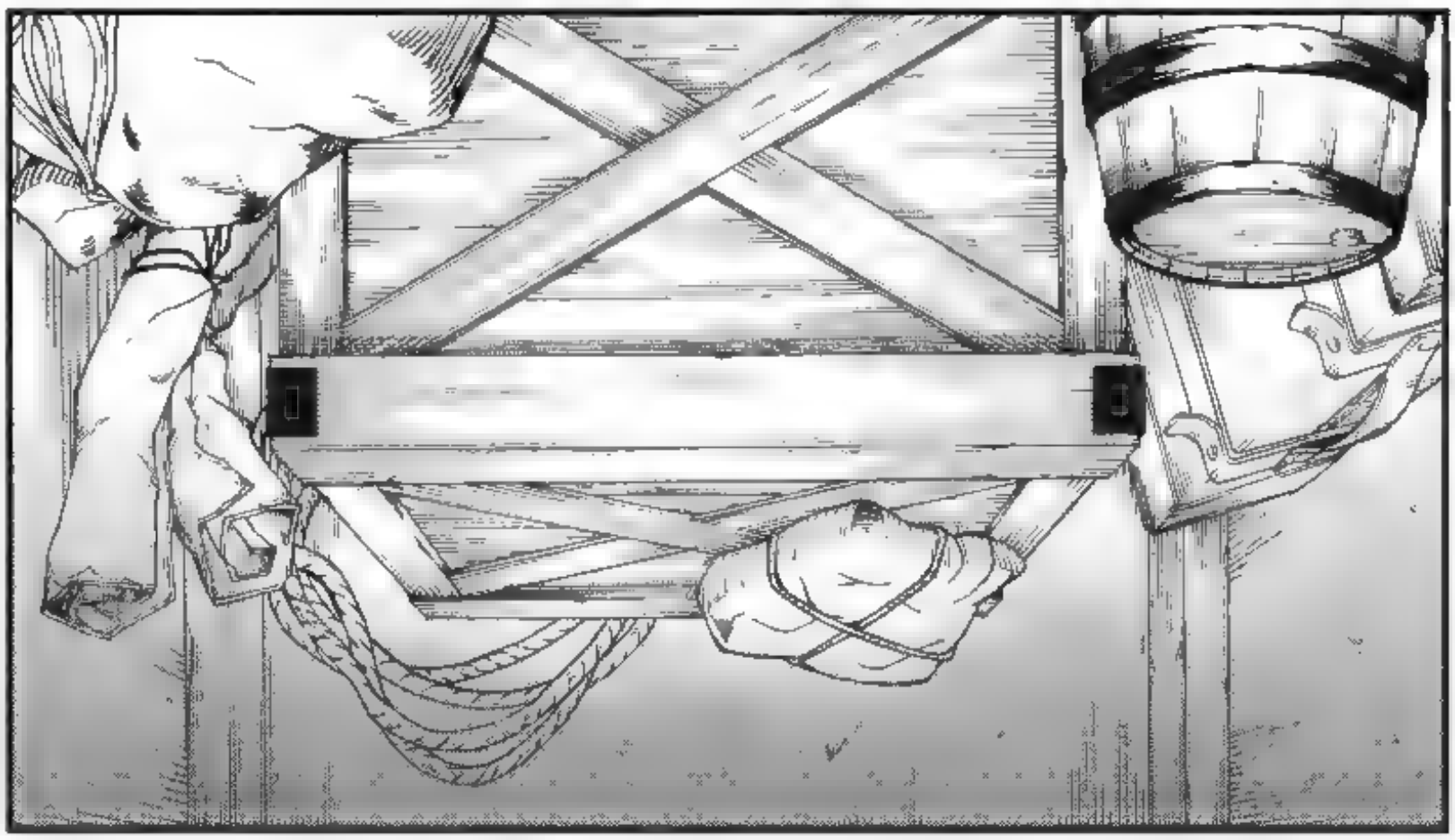


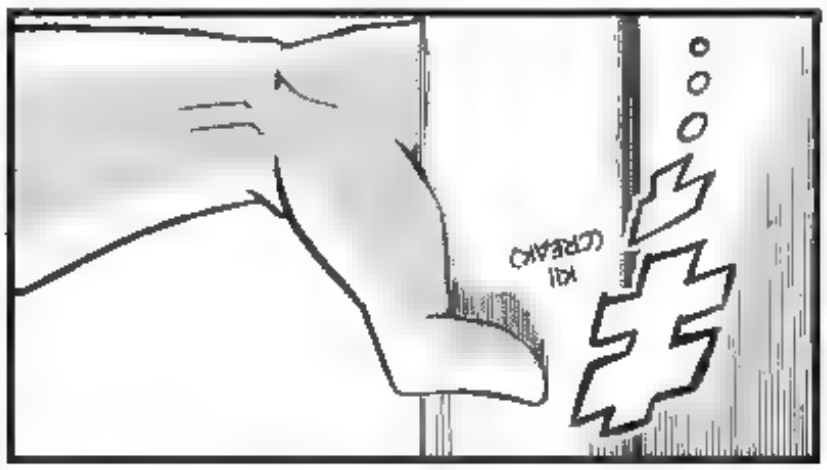


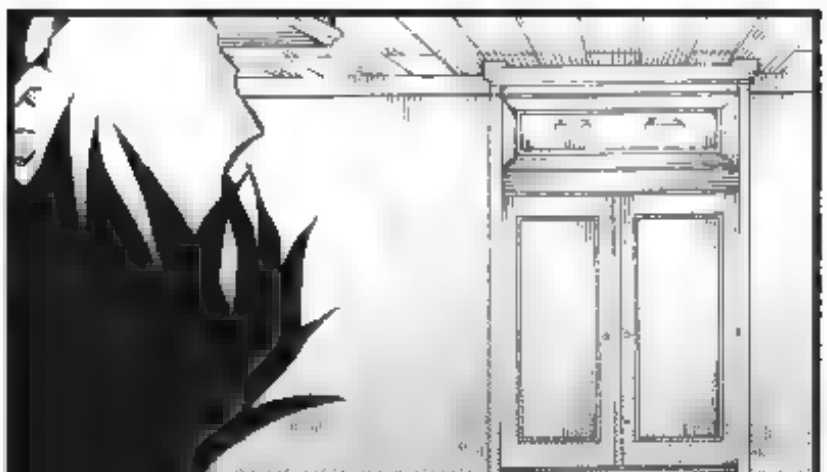
GORON (ROLL)



PAKA
(POP)




KII
(CREAK)



スラ…

SURA
(SHHK)

DJAH!?

BIKJ (CLINCH)

GACHA (KACHAK)

DEAR BROTHER, I MEANT TO TELL YOU EARLIER...

THE GUILD—

...THAT'S UNUSUAL. YOU HAVE YOUR SWORDS OUT.

UH.

YEAH...

JUST DOING SOME MAINTE-NANCE. Y'KNOW, SINCE IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

AND I HAVE NOTHING ELSE TO DO AND ALL.

...HMM. IS THAT SO?

FROM THE PANICKED LOOK ON YOUR FACE, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE INDULGING IN A LITTLE SELF-GRATI-FICATION.

DON'T BLUSH LIKE THAT!

IS THAT ALL YOU EVER THINK ABOUT?

SO?

WHAT DID YOU WANT?

NEVER MIND.

IT CAN WAIT.

...OKAY.

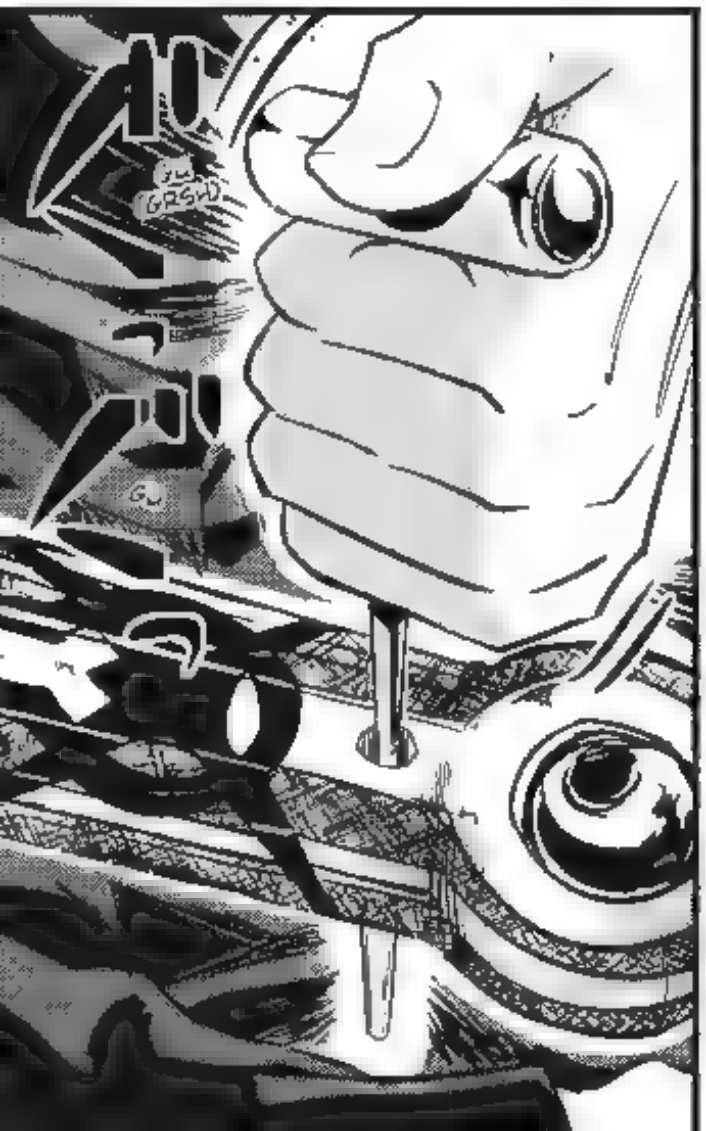
I'LL COME GET YOU WHEN IT'S TIME FOR DINNER.

パタン

PATAN (SHUT)

I WAS SURE SHE WAS GOING TO LECTURE ME LIKE SHE ALWAYS DOES—"IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO DO ANYWAY, WHY WON'T YOU JUST TAKE ANY JOB?"

...NOW WHERE DID I...PUT MY TOOLS...?



I TEAMED UP WITH THAT WIZARD TO SLAY THE MONSTER.

I FELT SOME-THING WHILE I WAS FIGHT-ING THAT FAYLA.

PON

PON (PAT)

IT WAS JUST A ONE-TIME THING.

I DON'T KNOW WHY IT WAS SO EXHILARATING...

...BUT...

KA (SHWOOSH)

...I WANT TO FEEL IT AGAIN...

...JUST ONE MORE TIME.

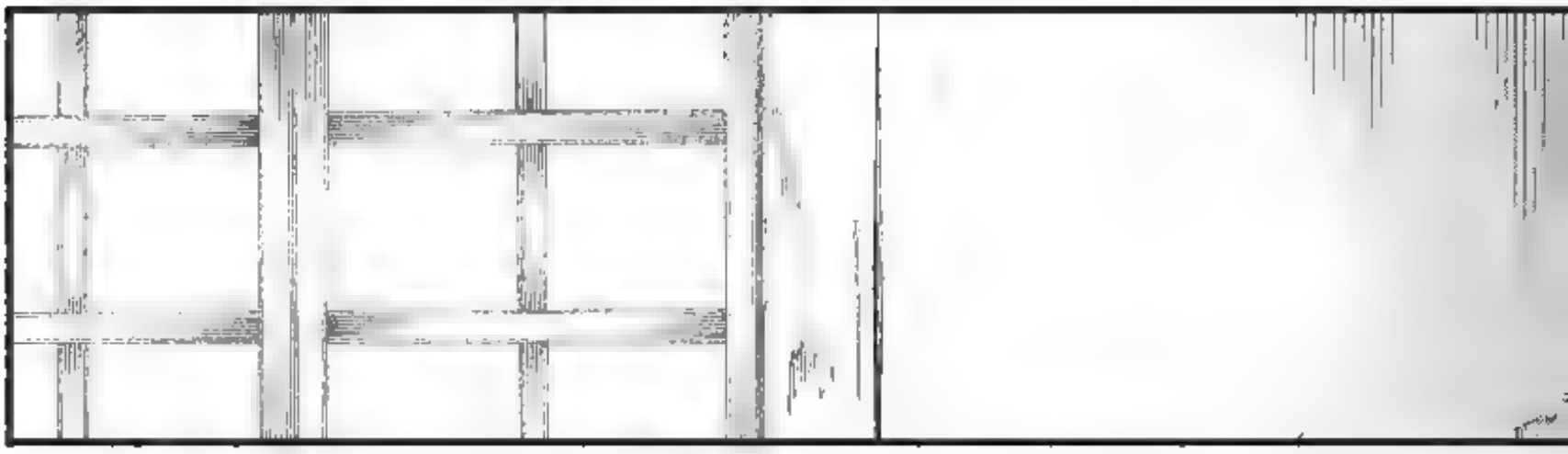
...
YEAH, RIGHT.

THERE'S NO PLACE FOR A SABO-TEUR...

WE LIVE IN A BORING, PEACE-FUL WORLD.

FIND AGAIN!

BORI
(SCRITCH)
ボリ
ボリ
BORI



.....

CHUN
チュン
CHUN (CHIRP)
チュン

WHAT I DID YESTERDAY.

...AND WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

BECAUSE THE SITUATION IS THE SAME AS IT WAS YESTERDAY.

YES, BUT WHY ARE WE HAVING A REPEAT OF YESTERDAY!?

I KEEP TELLING YOU, I JUST DON'T FEEL LIKE WORKING... AND I STILL HAVEN'T RECOVERED FROM THE FIGHT YESTERDAY...

...YOU DON'T INTEND TO WORK TODAY EITHER, DEAR BROTHER?

NO MATTER...

ZUBO (SHOONK)

I DID TELL YOU, DIDN'T I? YESTERDAY WAS THE END...

YURA (SWAY)

A-AKARI ?

episode 2: END

episode 3:

The Ties That Bind

GISHI (STAGGER)

DAN (SLAM)

GU (SHOVE)

DO (WHOOMP)

THAT WAS THE POINT.

I DID TELL YOU, DIDN'T I?

YOU SWUNG THAT AT ME FOR REAL!!

YOU COULD HURT SOME-ONE!!

I'M NOT LIKING THIS NEW SIDE OF YOU...

CHIRA (GLANCE)

IF YOU ARE NOT GOING TO GET A JOB, THEN I AM GOING TO STUFF YOU.

N (GLARE)

GNH!

BA (GRAB)

DO (DASH)

HYU (SWISH)

NO

PAAN (THWACK)

KUN (JOLT)

SHA (SLASH)

TO (TMP)

DA (DASH)

LIKE YOU CAN ACT SO HIGH AND MIGHTY...

BAN (WHAM)

...YOU ARE WEAK...

... BROTH-ER.

DRAW YOUR SWORD ...

... BROTH-ER.

KASHA (CLANK)

KASHA

KASHA

KASHA

IT'S NOT A SIMPLE MATTER OF MUSCLE STRENGTH.

HAAA

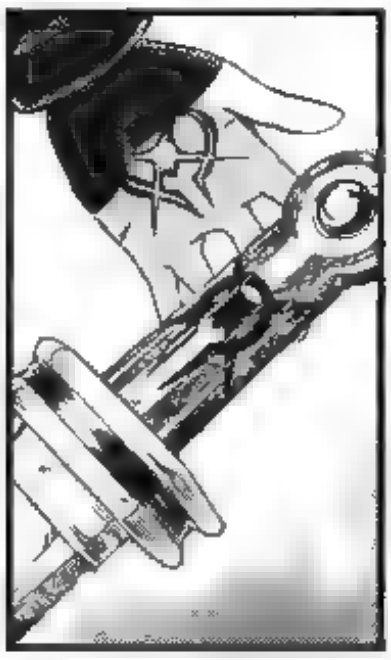
THE IRON-BLOOD TRANSFORMATION IS ESSENTIALLY A SECRET TECHNIQUE ACTIVATED THROUGH EXTREME MENTAL CONCENTRATION.

ONCE A PERSON HAS HAD BATTLE SKILL AND TECHNIQUE DRILLED SO COMPLETELY INTO THE MARROW OF THEIR BONES, THEY CAN BECOME A POWERFUL WEAPON.

A...

IT REDEFINES YOUR WHOLE BODY— NERVES, INTERNAL RHYTHMS, EVERYTHING— TO OPTIMIZE IT FOR BATTLE.

ギュッ... GYUU (GRIP)



AND I HAVEN'T FOUGHT IN TWO YEARS. IF I'M GOING TO HOLD MY OWN AGAINST AKARI...

—I am steel...

SURA (SHWOOSH)

When I meet my foe, I will not hesitate for a moment.

THIS IS NO JOKE...!

SUU (WHOOO)

IF THIS IS A JOKE... YOU'RE TAKING IT TOO FAR, AKARI.

Steel falters not. Steel wavers not...

I am a weapon to destroy my enemy—

SAWL (SHISH)

...HERE I COME...

...DEAR BROTHER.

DO. (LUNGE)

GIN
(CLANG)

JA
(SLASH)

BO
(BWOOP)

!

GUN (SNAG)

BI CZLASHD

...!

HEH ...

HEH HEH!

THAT LOOK ON YOUR FACE... REALLY TURNS ME ON...!

DEAREST BROTHER.

...DAMN PER-VERT...

GUI (WIPE)

BA (LEAP)

IT'S A BATTLE OF THE SWIFTEST!

YOU WOULD RUN FROM ME!?

I KNEW I WAS GETTING RUSTY... BUT I'M AT A HUGE DISAD-VANTAGE HERE...

JIRI— (TENSE)

NO... THERE'S NO POINT WHINING ABOUT THAT NOW.

DAN (THUD)

BI (WHIP)

BA (LEAP)

KIIN (KA-SHING)

HE THREW HIS SWORD ...!?

TO (TMP)

SO HIS STRATEGY WAS TO GET THE UPPER HAND BY MAKING ME SWING BEFORE I LANDED...

NEVER-THE-LESS...!

GIN CLANG

EVEN IF I CAN'T MOVE MY HANDS, I CAN MOVE MY FEET!

GA
(WHACK)

GO
(WHOOSH)

I HAVE HIM!

GAKUIN (YAMK)

HE USED THE MOMENTUM FROM MY IRON HAMMER ...!?

TO (TMP)

OẦN CHẠM!

HỰ NGH!

GA
(GRAB)

SLUU (FADE)

—BE GENTLE. IT'S MY FIRST TIME...

...DEAREST BROTHER.

THAT'S ENOUGH!

PAN (CLAP)

ALL RIGHT!

PITA (HALT)

BURTON, FROM THE GUILD.

BEEN A WHILE, HASN'T IT?

!?

SULL

YOU'RE ...

HEY.
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE...?
SA (SHP)
MUKURI (RISE)
WELL, YOU SEE, TORU, MY LAD.
AS I'M SURE YOU'RE AWARE, WE'VE BEEN CONSIDERING REVOKING YOUR MEMBER-SHIP...
WE DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH YOUR SISTER, AND SHE CAME TO SEE ME LAST NIGHT.
SHE ASKED ME TO GIVE YOU ONE LAST TEST BEFORE WE EXPELLED YOU...
IF WE KEEP INACTIVE MEMBERS IN THE GUILD, ALL IT DOES IS DAMAGE OUR CREDI-BILITY.
...OH... SORRY ABOUT THAT...

CAN'T THAT BE A JOKE!?

NO, I REALLY DO WANT TO STUFF YOU...

...I SEE. SO YOU WEREN'T REALLY TRYING TO KILL ME...

NO ONE'S GOING TO WANT TO HIRE ME AFTER ALL THIS TIME, SO—

DON (PAT)

...BUT YOU'VE GOT PLENTY OF PEOPLE IN YOUR GUILD, RIGHT?

LOOK, I KNOW THE VALUE OF BEING A MEM-BER...

HAAH...

...I FELL FOR IT.

WHAT!?

A JOB?

WELL, YOU SEE...WE ALREADY HAVE A JOB FOR YOU.

...WHAT?

SERI-OUSLY, WHAT IS YOUR DEAL...?

MY... THERE ARE BENEVOLENT PEOPLE IN THE WORLD.

AND WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT— AKARI, THE SAME CLIENT HAS A JOB FOR YOU TOO.

SHE'S BEEN STANDING OVER THERE...

AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE CLIENT IS HERE WITH ME NOW.

I AM...

...STUCK...!

GI (KRRK)

CHAIKA!?

UH.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE...?

KAA (BLUSH)

カー

ARGH!
I DON'T HAVE THE ENERGY TO ARGUE!
...GRAND...
...ENTRANCE.
...GOOD IMPRESSION.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SANDWICHED IN THERE LIKE THAT!?
ZU (SCOOT)
ZU
ZU
YOU'RE LEAVING!?
...OH.
YOU KNOW EACH OTHER.
UH!
YEAH...
WELL, I'LL EXCUSE MYSELF, THEN... I HOPE YOU CAN WORK EVERYTHING OUT...
WELL ...?

...

I THOUGHT YOU JUST WANTED TO GET TO TOWN.

WHY DO YOU STILL NEED ME?

...STILL.

スタ SUTA

I NEED.

スタ SUTA (TROMP)

TORU.

VERY SKILLFUL.

—WANT.

I JUST DON'T SEE WHY YOU WOULD SPECIFI-CALLY ASK FOR ME...

IF ALL YOU NEED IS SKILL, THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER GUYS IN THE GUILD.

I WANT YOU, SABOTEUR.

PI (POINT)

...CHAIKA...

ONE MORE THING.

WHAT DID SHE REALLY COME HERE FOR...?

I BELIEVED.

IN US.

OUR BOND...!

GA

GA

GA

GA

GA

GA

GA

GVRRND

GO GO GO GO GO GO GO (RUMBLE)

TRAVEL-ING LIKE THIS, I MEAN.

...DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A LITTLE CONSPICU-OUS?

BUT ACCORDING TO MATTHEUS'S REPORT, THIS IS DEFINITELY THE GIRL WE ARE LOOKING FOR.

IF WE LET HER GET AWAY NOW, THERE'S NO TELLING WHEN WE'LL GET ANOTHER CHANCE.

YOU DON'T SUPPOSE IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN BETTER TO AVOID TRAVELING IN BROAD DAYLIGHT?

ZEETA! WHEN ARE WE SUPPOSED TO ARRIVE AT THIS "DEL-SORENTO"?

...I JUST HAVE A DIFFICULT TIME DEFYING COMMON SENSE.

I didn't think you'd concern yourself with such minor details, Master Gillet. ♪

IN ABOUT THIRTY MINUTES...

HAVE YOU CONTACT-ED COUNT ABARTH?

YES. BUT I HAVEN'T TOLD HIM OUR REASONS.

GOOD. THAT WILL DO.

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO USE UNCONVENTIONAL METHODS...

...FOR THIS MISSION.

episode 3: END

CHAIKA: THE COFFIN PRINCESS

episode 4 Chaika's Request

ONE..

TWO...

WHOOPS... THERE'S ANOTHER ONE THERE

WHAT A BIG, CLUNKY BUILDING.

IT'S MORE LIKE A FORTRESS THAN A MANSION.

GASA (RUSTLE)

AKARI, HOW ARE THINGS ON THE WEST SIDE?

NOT MUCH DIFFER-ENT.

BUT HE WOULD HAVE BEEN AMPLY REWARDED FOR HIS SERVICE IN THE GREAT WAR. HE SHOULD HAVE A GOOD NUMBER OF GUARDS ON HIS PAYROLL.

THAT'S BECAUSE IT WAS A FORTRESS BEFORE IT WAS RENO-VATED.

THE CURRENT HEAD OF THE ESTATE, ROBERT ABARTH.

SER-VICE IN THE GREAT WAR?

...OF THE BATTLE OF THE GAZ IMPERIAL CAPITAL.

ONE OF THE HEROES ...

episode 4:

Chaika's Request

ATTACK...

...FEUDAL LORD'S MANSION...

...AND TAKE BACK...

...IMPORTANT THING.

DIDN'T EXPECT THAT...

...ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT THAT GIRL, BROTHER?

— OKAY... I THINK WE'VE COME FAR ENOUGH.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

WHAT? NO ONE COULD ARGUE THAT IN THE CHEST AREA, I—

LITTLE GIRL...? SHE'S NOT MUCH DIFFERENT FROM YOU.

THAT LITTLE GIRL... CAN WE REALLY TRUST HER?

OH.

IS THAT WHAT THIS IS ABOUT ...?

ER, I MEANT ...

...CAN WE TRUST HER ABILITIES AS A WIZARD?

WELL ...

REALLY? SHE DOESN'T LOOK IT...

IN THAT CASE, YOU HAVE NOTH-ING TO WORRY ABOUT.

SHE'S GOOD.

...WHEN WE FOUGHT THAT UNICORN, IT WAS A VERY INTENSE SITUATION.

AND CHAIKA FIRED HER SPELL WITHOUT A MISSING A BEAT.

SHE WAS SO SURE OF HERSELF... TO BE COMPLETELY HONEST, IT WAS DAZZLING...

SHE HAS THIS UNSHAK-ABLE INNER STRENGTH ...

SO YOU CARE MORE ABOUT SHAPE THAN SIZE.

SERI-OUSLY, IF YOU DON'T CUT THAT OUT, I'M GONNA SMACK YOU.

—ANYWAY, SHE'S A LOT TOUGHER...

...THAN SHE LOOKS.

HMM... I SEE.

GU (CLENCH)

OH!

TOTU!

...HM. NO COMPLAINTS ABOUT THIS MISCHIEF... NOTED.

—GH!

GASHAA CRASH

AWW, IT'S JUST A LITTLE SIBLING MISCHIEF FROM YOUR DEAR, SWEET LITTLE SISTER.

WELL, IT'S OVER-KILL!!

GOOD AFTER-NOON.

NO.

WEL-COME HOME.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?

GOCHAA (SPLORCH)

IT'S A DISASTER AREA...!

I CAN SEE THAT...

I MAKE DINNER.

I FAIL.

DEROO (SLOP)

!

...WE DID SOME RECON. WE'LL GO IN TOMORROW.

THEN I THINK WE NEED TO TALK STRATEGY...

BUT FIRST...

WIPE IT OFF, OR WASH IT...

OH...!

...COULD YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT STUFF ON YOUR FACE?

YOU STILL WANT TO DO IT...?

IT'S NOT GONNA BE A SIMPLE, CUT-AND-DRY JOB.

KI (GRIT)

...MM!

WOULD YOU JUST BE QUIET ALREADY!?
...SO SCATTER-BRAINS ARE YOUR TYPE?

KA
KA
KA
KA
CLACK

GII CREAK
○○○

YES, THANK YOU.

THIS WAY, LORD ALBER-IC.

WELCOME TO MY HUMBLE ABODE.

ALBERIC GILLET.

I AM ROBERT ABARTH.

SO THIS IS ROBERT ABARTH...

ONE OF THE HEROES WHO STRUCK DOWN EMPEROR GAZ...

PLEASE, HAVE A SEAT.

YOUR ATTEN-DANTS MAY SIT AS WELL.

I SEE HE HAS A RATHER HIGH OPINION OF HIMSELF...

HA HA HA. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

YOUR ATTENDANTS ARE QUITE CHARMING.

MY, MY.

HMPH.

STOP IT, VIVI.

PON (PAT)

PATRON-IZING LITTLE ...!

—STILL ...

NNGH...

SO, MR. GILLET.

...IS THIS MAN REALLY A HERO?

I FIND THAT EXTREMELY HARD TO BELIEVE... HAS HE JUST GOTTEN SOFT IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS?

GISHI (CREAK)

TO WHAT DO I OWE THE PLEASURE OF YOUR VISIT?

COUNT ABARTH.

I UNDERSTAND HOW RUDE IT IS TO BRING THIS UP ON OUR FIRST MEETING, BUT I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU.

NO.

I AM HERE ON A MISSION, NOT TO ASK UNNECES-SARY QUESTIONS.

I WOULD LIKE TO BORROW THE "ITEM" THAT YOU UNOFFICIALLY OBTAINED DURING THE BATTLE OF THE GAZ IMPERIAL CAPITAL.

...WHAT?

.....

...BUT WE ARE CURRENTLY ON A SPECIAL MISSION FOR THE INTERGOV-ERNMENTAL KLIEMAN ORGANIZA-TION FOR POSTWAR RECON-STRUCTION.

I CANNOT DIVULGE THE DETAILS ...

YOU EXPECT ME TO JUST LET YOU HAVE IT...?

...I AM NOT AT LIBERTY TO ANSWER QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS SPECIAL MISSION... I HOPE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND...

...WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY WANT IT FOR?

EVEN IF WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE...

SU (SHP)

PLEASE SHOW THEM TO THE DOOR.

OUR GUESTS ARE LEAVING.

LORD ABARA

HOW-EVER

I UNDER-STAND YOUR RELUCTANCE TO LEND US THE ITEM IN QUES-TION

...I WILL CALL ON YOU AGAIN.

. THIS IS A MATTER THAT CON-CERNS THE PEACE OF THE ENTIRE VERBIST CONTI-NENT

THE NERVE OF THAT GUY!!

DON (THOONK)

OH!

NICE THROW!

PACHI

PACHI (CLAP)

HEHEHE

HAFFF

OH...

THE USUAL.

...AND WHAT HAS SUM-MONED FORTH YOUR WRATH THIS TIME, MY LADY?

ISN'T IT OBVI-OUS!?

IF THAT'S ALL IT WAS, I WOULDN'T BE THIS UPSET!

ZUKA

THAT'S A NEW RECORD.

ZUKA

IT LASTED SIX MINUTES, SEVENTEEN SECONDS.

ZUKA (STOMP)

IT WAS ANOTHER SHORT MEETING, THEN.

I SEE.

AH HA HA.

I'VE GOTTEN IT OUT OF MY SYSTEM.

I FEEL LIKE YOU'RE ANGRY ENOUGH FOR BOTH OF US, VIVI!

AND COME ON!

YOU WERE MAD TOO, ZEETA! DON'T TALK LIKE I'M THE ONLY ONE WITH A PROBLEM HERE!

SU (SSK)

MY APOLOGIES TO BOTH OF YOU.

STILL, I COULD HAVE HAD MORE FORE-THOUGHT.

I'LL TAKE SOMEONE ELSE NEXT TIME, VIVI.

!

THANK YOU.

?

I KNOW THIS IS UNPLEAS-ANT FOR YOU.

BUT YOU KNOW HOW IT WOULD LOOK IF I DIDN'T BRING ATTEN-DANTS WITH ME...

GUA (SNARL)

UGH! MASTER GILLET, IF YOU WEREN'T SO...!

HUH?

WH... WHAT?

DEFT!

DID I DO SOME-THING WRONG?

AAAAGH!?

HM?

MASTER GILLET, DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD HAVE FIGURED IT OUT BY NOW?

VIVI AND ZEETA AREN'T UNHAPPY BECAUSE THEY FEEL THEY'VE BEEN INSULTED—

HYUN (WHIZ)

NICO! SHUT UP, YOU IDIOT!

WAH!? WATCH IT!

HYUN ヒュン

BININ (TWANG-ANG-ANG)

SUKON (THOONK)

S... SORRY.

IT'S OKAY TO LOSE A LITTLE COMPOSURE...!

HAAH... JUST DON'T OVERDO IT WITH YOUR FROLICKING.

UH... YES.

ZU (DOTT)

THE USUAL LOVERS' QUARREL AGAIN?

FORGIVE MY TARDINESS.

YOU'RE BACK, MATTHEUS!

AND I AM EQUALLY CERTAIN THAT SHE IS AFTER THE ITEM IN COUNT ABARTH'S POSSESSION.

OUR "TARGET" HAS ENTERED THE CITY. THAT MUCH IS CERTAIN.

I HAVE A FEW ITEMS TO REPORT...

CHAIKA, CAN I COME IN?

KON KON KNOCK

I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU KNEW—

.....

TORU.

I CLEAN UP NOW.

WAIT A LITTLE.

UH... NOTH-ING.

SO...

WHAT?

WHAT IS IT REALLY?

THAT COFFIN.

IF YOU JUST NEEDED A BOX FOR YOUR GUNDO, YOU WOULDN'T NEED TO GO WITH SOME-THING SO MORBID.

OOF.

AND I SERIOUSLY DOUBT YOU KEEP A BODY IN THERE...

...WHO'S INSIDE IT?

AFTER.

... COFFIN IS COFFIN.

CON-TAINER FOR DEAD.

DUTY.

MIS-SION.

PUR-POSE.

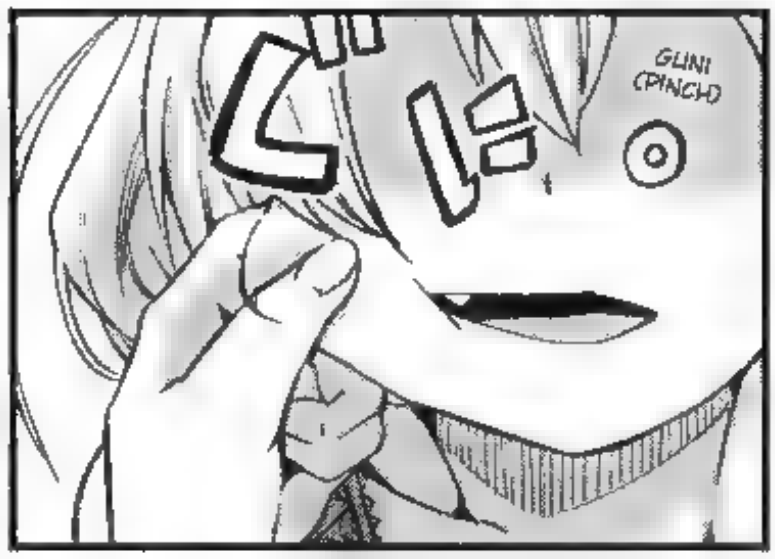
ABSO-LUTE.

IF... TAKE MY WHOLE LIFE.

PATAN (SHUT)

I MUST DO.

I TRY.



HERE'S THIS GIRL, YEARS YOUN-GER THAN ME, WITH HER EYES FIRMLY FIXED ON A GOAL.

AND SHE'S MOVING TOWARD IT.

OR...
MAYBE...

MAYBE I USED TO BE JUST LIKE HER...

HEY.

...DO YOU MIND TAKING A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE WITH ME...

...
CHAIKA?

I HADN'T EVEN TALKED ABOUT THIS WITH AKARI— NOT FACE TO FACE.

BUT JUST THEN, I WANTED HER TO HEAR MY STORY.

...BEFORE I DIED.

LEAVE SOME PROOF...

...THAT I LIVED...

I...

...WANTED TO LEAVE SOMETHING BEHIND...

BUT WHAT WAS LEFT TO ME... IS SOMETHING ENGRAVED SO DEEPLY INTO MY BEING THAT I COULDN'T FORGET IT IF I WANTED TO...

A BRAND ON MY SOUL.

episode 4: END

To be continued...

The following pages contain "episode 0: The Beginning of the End." This is a prologue that was published to promote the new series, *Chaika: The Coffin Princess*. It hints at aspects of Chaika's past that will be revealed later in the story.

DO (SHOONK)

episode 0:

The Beginning of the End

DOOO (ROOOOAR)

FEAR NOT! ONWARD!

ONWARD! — THE — THRONE ROOM IS BEFORE YOU!

KILL, KILL, KILL! KILL THEM ALL!

GASHA (CLANK)

KILL ALL WHO DEFY YOU—NO, KILL ANY WHO LURK IN THESE HALLS!

GASHA

GASHA

SOMEWHERE, SOMEONE IS SHOUTING.

SOMEWHERE, SOMEONE IS HOWLING.

SOMEWHERE, SOMEONE IS CRYING.

THE LAYERS OF COUNTLESS VOICES SING THE SONG OF DESTRUCTION.

WE JUST HAVE TO GET TO THE EMPEROR... IF WE CAN MAKE IT TO HIM...

IT'S ALL RIGHT...! IT'S ALL RIGHT, YOUR HIGH-NESS...

HFF HFF

YOUR MAJES-TY...

YOUR MAJESTY! I BROUGHT THE... PRIN... CESS.....

BAN (SLAM)

ZU (ZUSH)

...FA... THER...?

YOU CARE MORE FOR YOUR FATHER THAN FOR YOURSELF?

GU! (GRIP)

BA (SHOVE)

WE MUST PREVENT ANY FUTURE UPRISINGS.

NEVER-THELESS, WE MAKE NO EXCEP-TIONS—NOT EVEN FOR CHILDREN.

DAUGHTER OF THE DEMON KING. I WON'T ASK YOUR FORGIVE-NESS.

SCREAM AND CURSE AT ME ALL YOU LIKE ON YOUR WAY TO DEATH.

THE YEAR WAS 1604 BY OUR CONTINENT'S CALENDAR. ON THE VERBIST CONTINENT, THE ERA OF CIVIL WAR HAD LASTED A FULL THREE AND A HALF CENTURIES. BUT THE FALL OF THE NORTHERN POWER, THE GAZ EMPIRE, BROUGHT THE WAR TO AN END.

THE CONTINENT'S SIX LEADING NATIONS ALLIED TO INVADE THE GAZ EMPIRE AND AFTERWARD ENTERED INTO A NON-AGRESSION PACT, BRINGING A FACTUAL END TO THE WAR.

THE GAZ EMPIRE WAS DIVIDED AMONG THE SIX NATIONS, AND ITS VAST WEALTH, WHICH THEY CLAIMED HAD BEEN IN THE POSSESSION OF THE "FORBIDDEN EMPEROR," WAS DISTRIBUTED AMONG THEM, EACH NATION USING IT AS THEY SAW FIT TO REBUILD AFTER THE WAR.

IT'S MORNING, BROTHER.

KON

KON

KON

KON

KNOCK

THUS CAME ABOUT THE AGE OF PEACE THE PEOPLE HAD LONGED FOR.

...HE IS NOT RESPOND-ING.

IS THIS A DECLARATION OF INTENT TO SPEND THE DAY LYING IN BED AGAIN...?

WHAT IS HE SO UNHAPPY ABOUT...?

ガサ (RUSTLE)

ガサ (RUSTLE)

GASA

GASA

GASA (RUSTLE)

"H"
"H"
"!"

THUS, THE TALE BEGINS.

episode 0: END

from Ichirou Sakaki

I HAVE TO SAY, IT'S A LOT OF WORK TO TURN A NOVEL INTO A MANGA. IN MANY CASES, A STORY THAT IS ORIGINALLY TOLD AS A PROSE NARRATIVE IS HARD TO CONVEY THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF MANGA, AND THE VISUAL DESIGNS IN MANGA ARE CLEARLY DIFFERENT FROM THE BOOK ILLUSTRATIONS IN TERMS OF AMOUNT OF INFORMATION AND FLEXIBILITY. AND IF THE ARTIST WANTS TO BE FAITHFUL TO THE ORIGINAL, THEN HE HAS TO WORK EVEN HARDER. IN THAT SENSE, I COULD CALL EVERY CHAPTER OF SAKAYAMA-SAN'S MANGA MIRACULOUS. IT'S NOT AS IF I MADE ANY SPECIFIC REQUESTS, BUT THE SCENERY, THE STAGING, EVEN THE CHARACTERS TURNED OUT SHOCKINGLY CLOSE TO HOW I PICTURED THEM.

IN FACT, THE MANGA PAGES ARE FULL OF LITTLE DETAILS THAT COULDN'T BE FIT INTO THE PROSE OR THE LIMITED NUMBER OF ILLUSTRATIONS, AND THE WORLD IS SO COMPLETELY IMMERSIVE THAT EVEN I'M A LITTLE SURPRISED, AND I WROTE THE THING. SO OF COURSE I LOOK FORWARD TO READING THE NEXT CHAPTERS, AND—HONESTLY—I'LL LOOK THROUGH THE VISUALLY-COMPLETE SAKAYAMA VERSION OF CHAIKA AND TAKE NOTES LIKE, "OH YEAH, SO THAT'S HOW THAT WORKS!" BUT THAT WILL BE OUR LITTLE SECRET.

ICHIROU SAKAKI

from Namaniku ATK

OUT-OF-OFFICE

AFTERWORD

IS THIS WHAT MY BROTHER TASTES LIKE...?
TASTES!
CONGRATULATIONS ON RELEASING VOLUME ONE!!
SAKAYAMA-SENSEI'S CHAIKA IS SO ADORABLE, I HATE HIM....
LAP PILLOWS ARE AGAINST THE RULES! FORBIDDEN!

THANK YOU FOR BUYING VOLUME ONE OF CHAIKA: THE COFFIN PRINCESS. I'M STILL CLUMSY AND INEXPERIENCED, BUT I HOPE YOU'LL READ WITH A FORGIVING HEART. THE STORY IS ONLY JUST BEGINNING, BUT I HOPE YOU'LL SUPPORT THIS MANGA ALONG WITH THE ORIGINAL NOVELS.

TO MY EDITOR, WHO ENDURED SO MUCH IN OUR EFFORTS TO PUBLISH THIS, AND MY ASSISTANTS...

...AND EVERYONE WHO READS THIS MANGA, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

2012.3

茶果山しん

SHINTA SAKAYAMA

Sweet memories weave together...

Continued in Volume 2...

...forming a seal of sadness that closes off the future.

CHAIKA: THE COFFIN PRINCESS

TRANSLATION NOTES

Page 84

In the original Japanese, Akari uses the word *haka* ("deflowering"); later when her brother asks if she's lost her mind, he uses the word *baka* ("idiot"). It's possible that when Chaika heard Akari say *haka*, she thought of a different, more coffin-relevant meaning: "grave."

Page 91

Gundo—a term derived from the Norse word *gandr*, which means "wand"—is a tool used by wizards for casting spells.

CHAIKA: THE COFFIN PRINCESS

CHAIKA: THE COFFIN PRINCESS 1

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Manga: SHINTA SAKAYAMA
Character Design: Namaniku ATK (Nitroplus)

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This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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